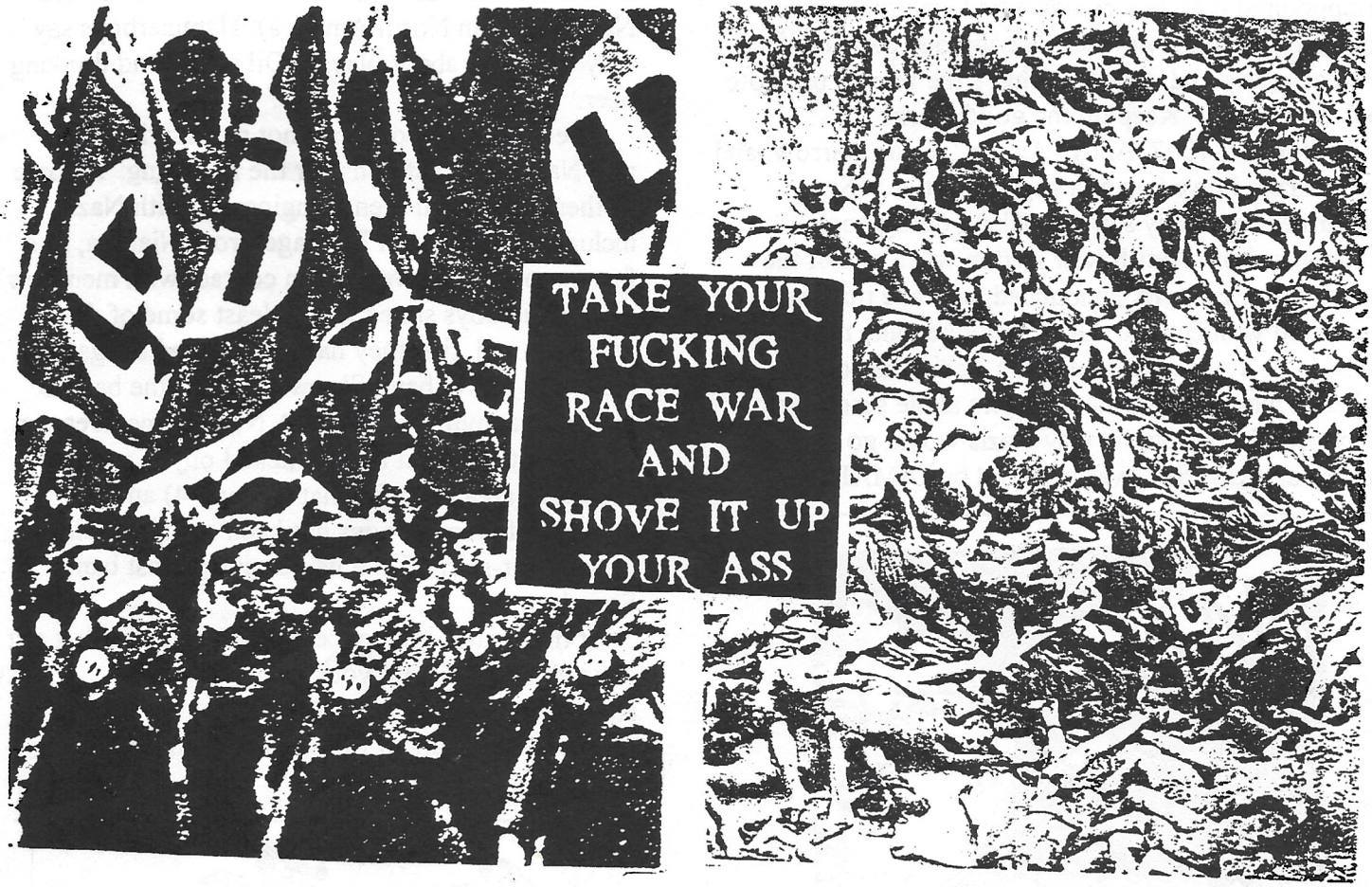
TRUE COLOURS

A PUBLICATION OF ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA

ISSUE # 5 —————————————————*SUMMER 1997*

WARNING: MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO PARANOID RIGHT-WING CAB DRIVERS.



SAYING THAT ANTI-NAZIS ARE JUST AS BAD AS NAZIS IS LIKE SAYING THAT FIREFIGHTERS ARE JUST AS BAD AS ARSONISTS.

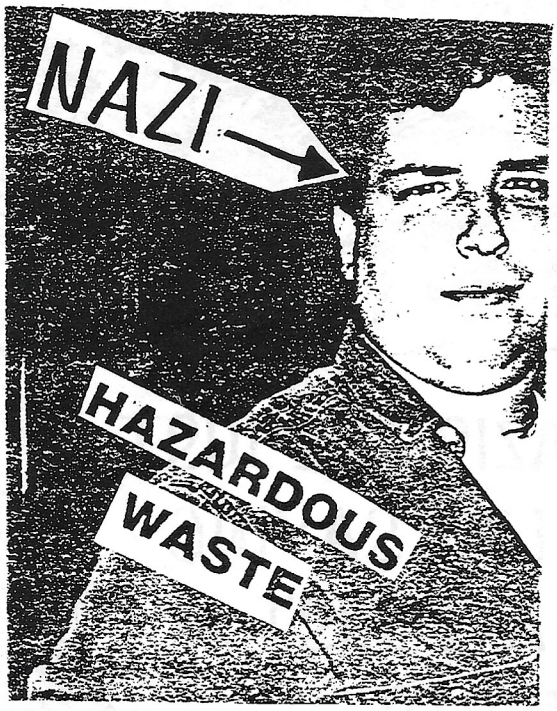
ON THE STREETS:

UPDATES ON THE LOCAL NAZI SCENE

In March of 1997, Heritage Front (HF) Niagara's Jake Schwenk was beaten so bad he had to be hospitalized. Allegedly, the beating was the result of a drug deal gone bad. Hey Jake, if you're going to deal drugs, you better sell the quality shit. Also in March, Vince Ritchie of HF Niagara got locked up for a while for assault. The two incidents are not believed to be related.

On Saturday May 24, 1997, HF Niagara's Andrew "Apollo" brought some Toronto Nazis to a St. Catharines night-club to "fuck up some ARA's." Disappointed that they couldn't find any, the Nazis engaged in random violence, leaving one person's face all smashed up and bloody. That's the way to promote your cause boys. Keep up the good work!

On July 21, 1997, Andy "Apollo", Colin Barrow, and other Nazis showed up at a ska concert at a St. Catharines bar. Andy started making derogatory comments about Anti-Racist Action when one of the bands, **The Creepers,** announced on-stage that they are associated with Buffalo ARA. It looked like there was going to be a rumble between the Nazis and some of the audience members but the bouncers made sure nothing happened. I don't know why Nazis would go to a ska concert anyway; Ska was invented by JAMAICANS!



Andy "Apollo"

Hammerboys:

Are They or *Aren't* They?

Recently there has been discussion about whether or not **Hammerboys** is a racist band. This has led to setbacks in their musical career. For example, on March 14, 1997, Hammerboys were scheduled to play at a bar in downtown St. Catharines. After several people phoned to complain, the band was removed from the line-up.

Hammerboys (or Hammerbois) deny that they are a racist band. They say that the word "Hammer" refers to Hamilton, where they are from - not for Hammerskins(one of the most violent neo-Nazi groups in North America). Hammerboys say they only care about playing Oi! music and drinking beer.

Well, Hammerboys may not necessarily be a neo-Nazi band, but consider the following: 1) some of them have been seen hanging out with Nazis, including members of Heritage Front Niagara, 2) a few people who have been in contact with members of Hammerboys stated that at least some of them are racist and that they have performed songs by the white power band Skrewdriver, 3) the band's drummer admitted to an ARA Niagara member that he is racist, and that he got kicked out of another Hamilton-area band for that reason, 4) another member of Hammerboys has been seen in public wearing a t-shirt of the white supremacist band Squadron.

If this matter is a concern to you, go check it out yourself and make up your own mind. If Hammerboys really are Nazis they won't be able to hide it for long, and if they aren't, then there's no problem.

BYE-BYE BURDI?

Here's some interesting stuff about the Nazi record label Resistance Records:

1) In early April, 1997, Resistance Records was busted by Canadian and American police. They raided the Resistance offices in Detroit and the Windsor, Ontario home of its founder, George Burdi. The American warrant was for tax-related charges and the Canadian warrant was for inciting racial hatred and for conspiracy to commit genocide. The authorities siezed merchandise, equipment, and files, and George Burdi went to jail. Since that time, Burdi has been released from jail, Resistance has had its equipment and merchandise returned, and the company is up and running again. No doubt this episode will further convince Burdi and his pals that the white man is being oppressed by a "Zionist Occupational Government."

2) On April 19, 1997, Resistance Records, in cooperation with Buffalo Area Skin Heads (B.A.S.H.), planned to have a concert in Buffalo to celebrate Hitler's birthday. There were going to be five bands, including Bound For Glory, Aryan (from London Ontario), and No Alibi (from Buffalo). Tickets were $20 (U.S.!) in advance and $25 at the door. The deal was that the boneheads would meet at a re-direction point where they would find out the location of the concert.

The fascists had to change their plans when Buffalo Anti-Racist Action found out the location of the re-direction point and the concert. This information was publicized in the media, leading the bar owner to cancel the concert. Also, Buffalo ARA held a concert that day with two hardcore bands, No Way Out and The Buddy Revells. This went ahead without incident.

It was later found out that the Hitler concert was merely postponed to the next day and held at a different location. According to a Nazi who was there, the show was cut short when some of the racists started fighting with each other, knocked the bar owner unconscious, and the cops were called in. Just sit back and laugh....

ACK! IT'S THE A.C.C!

In the last issue of True Colours we mentioned a new right-wing group in the Niagara Region called **Autonomous Citizens of Canada** (A.C.C.). It now seems that the 'group' merely consists of Keith Bowden (brother of Heritage Front Niagara leader Michael Bowden) and his internet page.

Although Keith denies being a right-wing racist, everything he puts on his web page shows otherwise. The main targets in his rants are things such as multiculturalism, racial equality, and liberal democracy.

One of Keith's favourite pastimes is to slander ARA and make them look like violent terrorists. Without offering proof, Bowden has falsely accused ARA of crimes such as vandalism, assault, and murder. He has even called ARA a 'fascist' organization that would make Hitler proud. Meanwhile, he portrays white, racist, sexist, homophobic men as victims in society.

Bowden defends neo-Nazi organizations such as Resistance Records on the grounds of free speech, yet anyone who disagrees with him is a "commie" who doesn't deserve the same rights. Bowden also thinks that anyone who criticizes him or his Heritage Front buddies must be a member of ARA, and not just a concerned citizen.

Another of his favourite activities is to nitpick everything someone writes or e-mails about him. For example, in our last issue we stated that he got suspended from his job as a cab driver for taking part in political activities during work hours. Bowden said that we lied, and that he did not get suspended. Well, the reason we printed it was because the company he works for told us that they suspended him. In actual fact, they are the *real* liars. (I suppose I could mention the name of the taxi company but it isn't really central to the story.)

Keith Bowden could be written off as just a frustrated nut who has too much time on his hands, but this would be ignoring the potential danger people like him pose to our society. It was just that kind of 'nut' (Timothy McVeigh) who blew up a government building in Oklahoma two years ago, killing 168 children, women, and men.

While Keith spends his time slagging anti-racists for being "violent," he totally ignores the problem of right-wing racist violence in North America. He does not mention the many murders, bombings, church arsons, gaybashings and other hate crimes caused by people associated with the white supremicist movement.

POLITIX PAGE

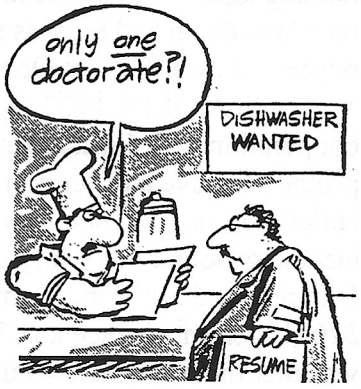
Although ARA Niagara does not advocate any particular political doctrine or ideology, we at True Colours feel it is important to have an understanding of wider political issues.

Patriotism VS. Racism

It really bothers me that racist organizations like the Heritage Front and Autonomous Citizens of Canada claim that they are patriotic and stand for "Canadian values." I don't know what they consider Canadian values, but ***my*** Canada includes democracy, multiculturalism, unions, regulations to protect workers and the environment, progressive income tax, government funding for health care, education, and social programs, and other things that make Canada a great place to live. Sure Canada has a lot of problems, but we have a lot to be proud of. Why do you think the United Nations always has Canada near the top of the list of best places to live? Unfortunately these days, our politicians are doing whatever they can to destroy all of the things that Canadians have taken generations to build.

So-called "nationalists" who hate immigrants should remember that without immigrants there would be no "Canada." Canada was built on immigration. The nation of Canada was built by Limeys, Frogs, Micks, Chinks, Wops, Polacks, Ukes, Gooks, Coons, Spics, Flips, Japs, Krauts, Kikes, Pakis, Russkies, and lots of other immigrants who were discriminated against when they first came over; often forced into dirty, dangerous, low-paying jobs. Canada was built by the working class!

I really don't understand the whole idea of "white pride." It's one thing to be proud to be Canadian, Pakistani, Italian, or whatever - but being proud of the colour of your skin? That's pathetic! What the hell is "white culture?" Even if there was such thing as an all-white country, after centuries of mixed breeding and cultural influences, there is no such thing as a "pure race" or a "pure culture." Neo-Nazis should grow up and accept this fact and realize that the only way humans will succeed is if they work together for the common good.



ANARCHY for Beginners

Recently in St. Catharines, Ontario, a few people have been shooting their mouths off, saying that **anarchy** means "having the freedom to kick whoever you want out of your country to keep it racially pure." When asked where they learned this screwed-up definition of anarchy, they answered Heritage Front Niagara. A wanna-be skinhead girl named Lynne (s.p.?) has been going around wearing anarchy stuff and calling herself a nationalist. That is just bizarre. Also, a guy called Wade has been saying that only whites can be anarchists. It just blows my mind that people this ignorant are walking the streets of St. Catharines.

For anyone who doesn't know already, **the basic definition of anarchy is a society that has no government or organized hierarchical authority** (and no, anarchy does not mean chaos). There are different strains of anarchist belief, such as anarcho-syndicalism (trade unions), socialist anarchism, and communal anarchism. Anarchists have often been at the forefront of progressive movements such as the civil rights movement, the feminist movement, the sqatters' rights movement, and the struggle against poverty and inequality. Many of the first victims of the Nazis in Germany were anarchists. Examples of famous anarchists were Bakunin, Nestor Makhno, Emma Goldman, and Ghandi (!). If you want to find out more about anarchy and anarchists, don't depend on the misinformed rants of ignorant poseurs; go to your local library and I'm sure you will find the information you need.

FEMALE TOPLESSNESS: What's the Big Freakin' Deal?

Ontario's decision to allow women to go topless in public has caused social conservatives to become hysterical and say that it will bring down civilization and lead to rampant immorality.

One of their arguments is that if women are given the right to bare their breasts, it will lead to total public nudity, and then eventually to public sex. This is a dumb thing to say, because women only want the same rights that men already have - the right to take off their shirts on a hot day.

The reactionaries foolishly worry that they will run into topless females in malls, restaurants, and other such places. Ever hear of "No Shirt, No Service" policies? Men don't go topless in those places, so why would women?

Some people claim that they are against females baring their breasts because they want to 'protect children'. Protect them from what? Children can see breasts (and a lot more) on T.V., at the movies, or in their dad's magazine collection. Besides, how can anything created by nature (or by God, if you believe in that) be obscene? If the human body is something to be ashamed of then why were we all given one when we were born?

I know people who remember when an exposed leg or belly of a woman was considered scandalous. For the children and grandchildren of these people, the display of these body parts would not even raise an eyebrow (or anything else). Unless they are used in an erotic manner, these body parts are no more sexual than shoulders or eyes.

Hopefully, our children and grandchildren will be more open-minded than the previous generations, and will be able to accept females going topless in public places such as beaches and parks. Once we can see past our prejudices, there will be more equality between men and women.

The bottom line is this: if men can go around without a shirt on and not get arrested, women should be able to do the same thing.

FIGHT RACISM! ★ FIGHT SEXISM!

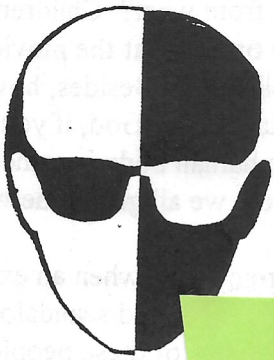
ANTI-RACIST ACTION

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA IS A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION FORMED IN NOVEMBER, 1995. WE ARE DEDICATED TO BUILDING A **YOUTH CULTURE** FREE FROM RACISM AND PREJUDICE. WE ARE LINKED TO THE CONTINENT-WIDE **ANTI-RACIST ACTION NETWORK**, BUT WE OPERATE AS AN **INDEPENDENT** ORGANIZATION.

ARA NIAGARA DOES NOT ADVOCATE ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY - OUR MAIN CONCERN IS OPPOSING FASCISM, RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, AND OTHER FORMS OF BIGOTRY. WE TRY TO DO THIS THROUGH **EDUCATION** AND THROUGH **EVENTS** SUCH AS CONCERTS.

IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS, HATE-MAIL, ARTICLES, PICTURES, INFORMATION ABOUT NEO-NAZIS, CONTACTS FOR BANDS OR HIP-HOP GROUPS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PERFORM AT A **ROCK AGAINST RACISM** CONCERT, OR IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ARA NIAGARA,

WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT:



ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA

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web page: http://

TRASH NAZI TRASH...

...DON'T RECYCLE IT!

All views expressed are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent those of ARA Niagara as a whole.

anti-racist action